Brevity interiors

Straightforward Solutions, Stronger Connections

Capability Statement

About Us

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We are ***Brevity Interiors***, a New Zealand-based interiors engineering firm. Our motto, "***Straightforward Solutions, Stronger Connections***," is a philosophy that guides everything we do. We believe the most complex ***problems in construction aren't about engineering—they're about coordination***. We are the ***only coordination-first AEC consultancy***, dedicated to solving these problems ***holistically***. Our ***specialised expertise in seismic design, fire, and acoustic compliance*** is the powerful result of our focus on seamless service integration.

As a tech-enabled firm, we use proprietary systems to streamline our project delivery from the initial fee proposal onwards, ensuring efficiency and accuracy. Our unique ticketing system and clear communication process allow us to respond to client queries and project requirements efficiently, forging stronger connections within the entire project team. We provide straightforward guidance that builds a foundation of trust with our clients.

Our specialised expertise in seismic design, combined with robust internal systems and a clear communication process, gives our clients confidence in the safety and quality of our interior solutions

"Great team to deal with. Prompt tidy service."

"Thanks to Brevity for assisting us this year with multiple projects, their team has been efficient and effective."

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Contents


E-FRAME SDB

Our Future

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The Future of Brevity: Engineering Tomorrow's Interiors, Today

At Brevity, we're shaping the future of interior engineering by focusing on automation, collaboration, and client outcomes. Our approach uses open-source principles and innovative technology to transform traditional design.

Automated Engineering Standards: Precision at Scale

We have automated our engineering standards and integrated them directly into our software. This eliminates time-intensive manual calculations, allowing us to perform complex compliance checks and structural designs with speed and accuracy. This automation reduces errors and lets our engineers focus on high-value problem-solving.

Open-Source Code: Collaboration Beyond Boundaries

We've made our core engineering standards open-source. This commitment to transparency allows for peer review and collaboration from the wider engineering community, which helps ensure our standards are robust and current.

BIM 3D Coordination: A Consultation Revolution

Building Information Modeling (BIM) 3D coordination is a key consultation tool for us. We use federated 3D models as dynamic platforms for all consultants and clients to engage in real-time discussions. This interactive environment allows for immediate clash detection, collaborative problem-solving, and a shared understanding of the design, which helps prevent costly rework.

PRENGUIN: Engineering Expertise in Seconds

PRENGUIN, our web-based engineering platform, integrates our automated standards to provide instant feedback on seismic performance, material requirements, and compliance. This allows our team to:

- Consult faster: Provide instant insights to clients, enabling quicker, more informed decisions.
- Focus on value: Free engineers from repetitive calculations so they can focus on complex problem-solving and strategic consultation.

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Our Future

Value Engineering: Optimising Design and Build at Every Stage

We specialise in value engineering for interiors, identifying cost and performance efficiencies throughout a project. Unlike general structural engineers, we can prevent over-specification, which often leads to:

- Unnecessary costs: Purchasing materials that are heavier or more frequent than needed.
- Increased labor: More time spent on installation.
- Poor buildability: Over-engineered solutions that complicate the building process.

These over-specifications provide no additional safety benefit and often result from a lack of specialised interiors knowledge.

Automated Project Workflow: From Design to Consent, Seamlessly

Our future vision involves a dramatically streamlined process where all design, procurement, resource consent, and building consent stages are integrated and largely automated. Imagine a system where initial designs automatically trigger compliance checks, generate material lists for procurement, and even prepare documentation for consent applications. This holistic automation significantly cuts down on administrative burden, accelerates project timelines, and ensures a more predictable journey from concept to completion.

The Brevity Advantage: A New Era of Collaboration and Efficiency

The future of Brevity is one where human expertise is amplified by intelligent automation. We are building a future where design is faster, more precise, and inherently collaborative. By open-sourcing our engineering knowledge, leveraging BIM as a true consultation hub, automating workflows end-to-end, and providing unparalleled value engineering through specialisation, Brevity is setting a new benchmark for efficiency, compliance, and client satisfaction in Aotearoa New Zealand's construction industry. We are not just engineering interiors; we are engineering the future of construction.

Our Future

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Brevity's Solution

Our deep expertise, combined with PRENGUIN's ability to instantly verify product system performance against specific project parameters, allows us to:

- ***Identify Optimal Solutions:*** We precisely engineer for the required performance, avoiding over-specification. This includes selecting the correct material thicknesses (BMT), stud spacing, and connection types that meet all compliance standards efficiently.
- ***Leverage Verified Product Systems:*** We understand the performance capabilities of a wide range of industry-standard and innovative interior product systems, ensuring solutions are robust yet economical.
- ***Find Value at All Stages:*** Whether it's optimising initial concepts, refining detailed designs, or even assessing existing fit-outs for upgrade, our specialisation uncovers value by ensuring every component is right-sized for its purpose. This directly translates to cost savings for the client without compromising safety or functionality.

PRENGUIN

pipedrive Gemini zapier Google Workspace

AXISVM X4 ProWorkflow CURSOR keeping Ansys

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Our Work

When **coordination breaks down**, **timelines slip, budgets balloon**, and **liability falls back on you.** At Brevity, we don't just engineer solutions—we solve problems before they arise. Our team brings **clarity, compliance, and confidence** to every project.

One Point of Responsibility

No more fragmented consultants or blurred accountability. Brevity provides a single, **coordinated point of contact for engineering design** and construction monitoring, streamlining **communication and delivering reliable results**.

Regulatory & Compliance Assurance

From the very start, we coordinate with stakeholders to meet fire, acoustic, seismic, wind load, and sustainability requirements. Our **proactive approach prevents costly redesigns** and ensures PS1 and PS4 certificates are in place for a fully compliant outcome.

Cost & Risk Control

By identifying non-compliant specifications early, we eliminate expensive surprises during construction. Our bespoke engineering design, paired with thorough construction monitoring (on-site or remote), keeps projects on budget and on schedule.

Performance-Driven Design

We specialise in walls, ceilings, and plenum systems that balance fire safety, acoustic performance, seismic resilience, and code compliance. From PS1 design through to plenum inspections and final PS4 sign-off, we ensure your spaces are safe, functional, and future-proof.


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Our Services

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PS1 Engineering Design - Non-Structural Building Elements

We deliver PS1 certificates for ceilings, walls, and seismic restraint of building services, ensuring your non-structural elements are engineered for safety and compliance.

Bespoke Engineering Design - Non-Structural Building Elements

Our team provides tailored engineering solutions for non-structural building elements. Designs cover seismic and wind load compliance, structural integrity, and alignment with New Zealand Building Code requirements.

Construction Monitoring

We support projects through construction monitoring, both on-site and remote, to verify compliance during installation.

PS4 certificates are provided for final monitoring and sign-off.

Walls & Ceilings Performance

We design ceilings and partitions to meet fire resistance, acoustic performance, and plenum efficiency requirements. This ensures safe, functional spaces that align with code compliance.

Plenum Management & Compliance

We carry out detailed inspections and certifications of ceiling plenums, preventing clashes with building services and ensuring all restraints are installed correctly.

Why Work With Us?

- ***Comprehensive compliance:*** From PS1 design through to PS4 monitoring.
- ***Safety & performance:*** Fire, acoustic, seismic, and wind load considerations built into every design.
- ***Tailored solutions:*** Bespoke engineering to meet your project's unique needs.
- **Collaborative approach:** We work alongside your team to achieve smooth, compliant project delivery.

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Our Team

Matt Bishop - Managing Director

With over two decades in construction, Matt Bishop is a leader in engineering innovation. He spent 15 years leading a consultancy, specialising in commercial interiors and earthquake safety.

matt.bishop@teambrevity.com

Gye Simkin - Sales Lead

Drives business development by identifying client needs and creating tailored solutions. Gye guides new partnerships and aligns project goals with Brevity's capabilities to ensure a seamless start and long-term value.

gye.simkin@teambrevity.com

Francesca O'Connell - Senior Industry Consultant

With nine years of interior design experience in New Zealand and Australia, including six at top-tier firms, Francesca delivered award-winning designs across diverse sectors. She manages projects end-to-end, offering strong technical skills and collaborative leadership.

francesca.oconnell@teambrevity.com

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Our Why

Case Study: Visa Auckland Office Fit-Out

The Problem

The Visa Auckland office fit-out required high-end aesthetics with strict seismic compliance in Aotearoa New Zealand. Challenges included:

- ***Complex features***: Free-standing meeting pods, an operable wall, and intricate feature lighting in a high-stud void, all needing specific structural support.
- ***Tight timelines***: Demanding rapid design and engineering turnarounds.
- ***Compliance***: Adherence to NZ Building Code seismic performance.

Brevity's Coordinated Engineering Solution

Brevity Interiors provided specialist interior seismic engineering, combining technology and expertise:

- ***Rapid Design with PRENGUIN***: Our in-house web-based tool, PRENGUIN, allowed quick modelling and calculation of seismic restraint designs, drastically reducing partition design time to just one week.
- ***Bespoke Structural Solutions***: For unique elements like free-standing pods (glazed, no ceiling connection) and large feature lights, Brevity's engineers developed custom solutions.
    - Pods: Minimal wire bracing ensured stability without aesthetic compromise.
- ***Seamless Integration***: Brevity ensured structural designs blended with the architectural vision, providing compliance without hindering aesthetics.

Outcomes

Brevity's involvement offered significant benefits:

- ***Accelerated Delivery:*** PRENGUIN and agile engineering expedited design, avoiding project delays and meeting construction timelines.
- ***Design & Compliance Achieved***: Complex features were integrated with robust seismic design, resulting in a stunning, fully compliant interior.
- ***Cost Efficiency***: Intelligent solutions, like segmented lighting bracing, optimised materials and reduced installation complexity, leading to savings.
- ***Enhanced Confidence***: Architects and developers gained confidence knowing critical interior structural elements were expertly handled, mitigating risks.

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Our Specialty

Seismic Restraint of Building Services

The Critical Importance of Seismic Restraint of Building Services

In seismically active regions like New Zealand and Australia, the structural integrity of a building is paramount. However, the often-overlooked network of building services—mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, and fire sprinkler systems—is just as critical. Seismic restraint is the engineering discipline dedicated to securing these services against earthquake forces, ensuring they remain operational and do not pose a hazard during and after a seismic event. For architects, developers, and commercial builders, understanding and implementing these restraints correctly is not just a matter of compliance; it's a matter of public safety, asset protection, and business continuity.

Key Standards and Regulations

Compliance is governed by specific standards in both New Zealand and Australia. The primary standard is NZS 4600:2014, Cold-formed steel structures, and its Australian counterpart, AS/NZS 4600:2018. These standards provide the framework for designing and installing seismic restraints. For specific services, other standards apply:

- Fire Sprinklers: In New Zealand, NZS 4541:2020 mandates seismic restraint for fire sprinkler systems, ensuring they remain functional to suppress fires that may erupt after an earthquake. In Australia, AS 2118.1:2017 provides similar requirements.
- Mechanical & Hydraulic Services: Standards like AS/NZS 1170.0 and AS/NZS 1170.5 (for New Zealand) govern the actions and design loads for earthquake resistance, applying to everything from HVAC ducting to water pipes.

The Brevity Advantage: Redefining Seismic Solutions

Navigating the dense network of services in a modern building can present a significant challenge. A common problem we see, particularly in high-stakes environments like hospitals, is brace congestion. With each service—be it mechanical, electrical, or fire—requiring its own seismic bracing, the plenum space becomes a tangled web of restraints. This leads to inefficient use of materials, increased costs, and logistical nightmares for installation, often compromising the very systems they are meant to protect.

We specialise in consolidated bracing systems. Our approach uses a single brace to secure multiple service runs , which reduces material costs and installation time. This also clears the plenum, simplifying maintenance and mitigating the risk of clashing services. Our streamlined, cost-effective solutions provide a positive ripple effect across the entire project.

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Our Specialty

Seismic Restraint of Interior Partitions

Designing Partitions to Standards

The design and installation of non-load bearing partitions are governed by a range of standards to ensure a building's safety, functionality, and durability. At Brevity, our designs are fully compliant with key standards in New Zealand and Australia, particularly those related to structural actions and the use of materials.

Key Standards

- NZS 1170.5:2004 (Structural Design Actions—Part 5: Earthquake actions—New Zealand): This is the primary standard we design to for earthquake resistance in New Zealand. It sets out the procedures for determining earthquake actions on structures and parts of structures. It includes criteria for verifying a structure's ability to withstand seismic forces and limits for deformation. For partitions, this means designing to accommodate specific levels of inter-story drift, with modern standards requiring designs to handle drifts of 2.0% to 2.5% or more.
- AS/NZS 1170.0:2002 (Structural Design Actions—Part 0: General principles): This standard provides the overarching procedures and criteria for the structural design of a building. It covers a variety of actions, including permanent action (dead load), imposed action (live load), wind, and earthquake. Our designs consider these factors to ensure the partition system can accommodate both vertical and lateral movements.
- NZS 4600:2014 & AS/NZS 4600:2018 (Cold-formed steel structures): These standards are fundamental to our work, as they set out the minimum requirements for the design of structural members made from cold-formed steel, such as the studs and tracks used in our partition systems. These standards ensure the materials themselves have the capacity to withstand the forces they will be subjected to.

The Brevity Solution

We leverage these standards to provide a clear advantage for our clients. The traditional method of installing a partition system often fails to account for the significant movement a building undergoes, especially on a top floor with a steel purlin roof where wind loads can cause much greater deflection. The result is a system that can buckle, crack, and fail, compromising its fire and acoustic ratings. By addressing these complex requirements at the tender stage, we prevent costly on-site fixes and deliver a partition system that is resilient, durable, and fully compliant.


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Our Specialty

Seismic Restraint of Suspended Ceilings

Seismic Restraint of Suspended Ceilings

The seismic restraint of suspended ceilings is a critical aspect of building design and construction, particularly in seismically active regions like New Zealand and Australia. For architects, developers, and builders, understanding the correct methodologies is essential for ensuring safety, compliance, and long-term performance.

The Fixed-Float vs. Fully Fixed Ceiling Debate

The "ceilings Standard," AS/NZS 2785:2020, provides typical examples of seismic restraint based primarily on methodologies for grid-and-tile ceilings. The standard's "fixed-float" perimeter method is a well-researched approach designed to prevent compression or tension failure at the ceiling's perimeter.

However, for suspended sheet material ceilings, such as plasterboard, the "fixed-float" method is not directly applicable. Recent studies show that a "fully fixed" design method performs as well as, if not better than, a "fixed-float" design under seismic loading. Importantly, using a "floating" edge for sheet material ceilings introduces issues related to noise, airtightness, hygiene, and fire-resistance, as the floating edge does not meet these performance requirements.

The key difference lies in how these systems behave. In a sheet material ceiling, the plasterboard itself has more horizontal strength than the suspension system, so it bears most of the seismic load. A typical riveted primary suspension connection has a capacity of 1-1.5 kN per metre, while a taped and stopped sheet material joint can have a capacity of 4-6 kN per metre. This means a "fully fixed" connection is often the most effective and reliable solution.

Brevity's Expertise and High-Importance Projects

We have deep expertise in suspended ceiling systems for all buildings, from high-importance (IL4) to standard (IL2) structures. For critical IL4 buildings like hospitals, we provide compliant and cost-effective solutions that ensure post-earthquake functionality. For IL2 buildings, a "fixed-fixed" perimeter restraint can be used without specific engineering design (SED), provided the ceiling does not exceed 144 m² in area and the boundary walls can accept seismic forces. We leverage our knowledge of standards like AS/NZS 2785 and our membership in the AWCI to deliver safe, practical, and resilient solutions tailored to project needs.

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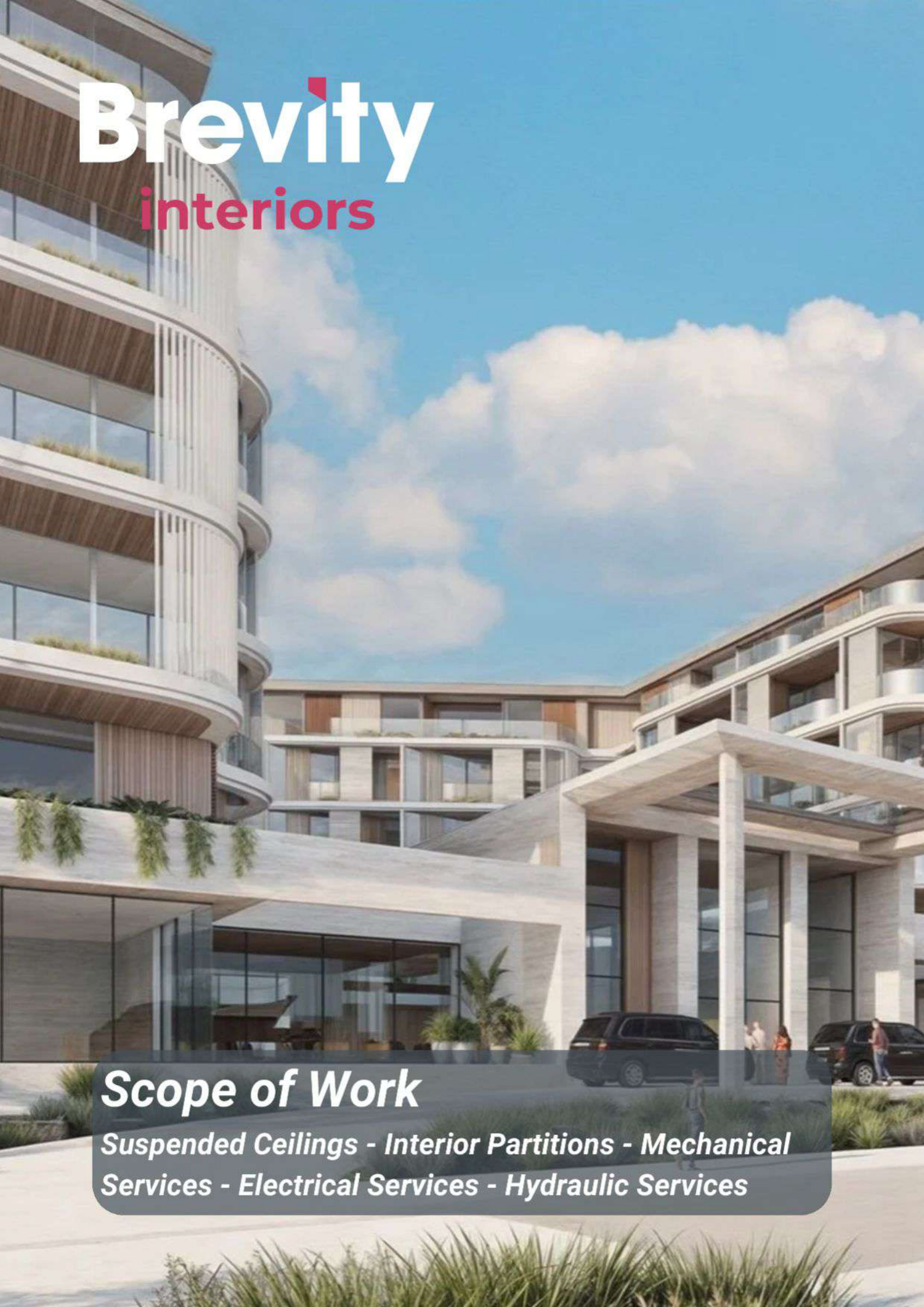

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Scope of Work

Suspended Ceilings - Interior Partitions - Mechanical Services - Electrical Services - Hydraulic Services

THE PITAU PROJECT

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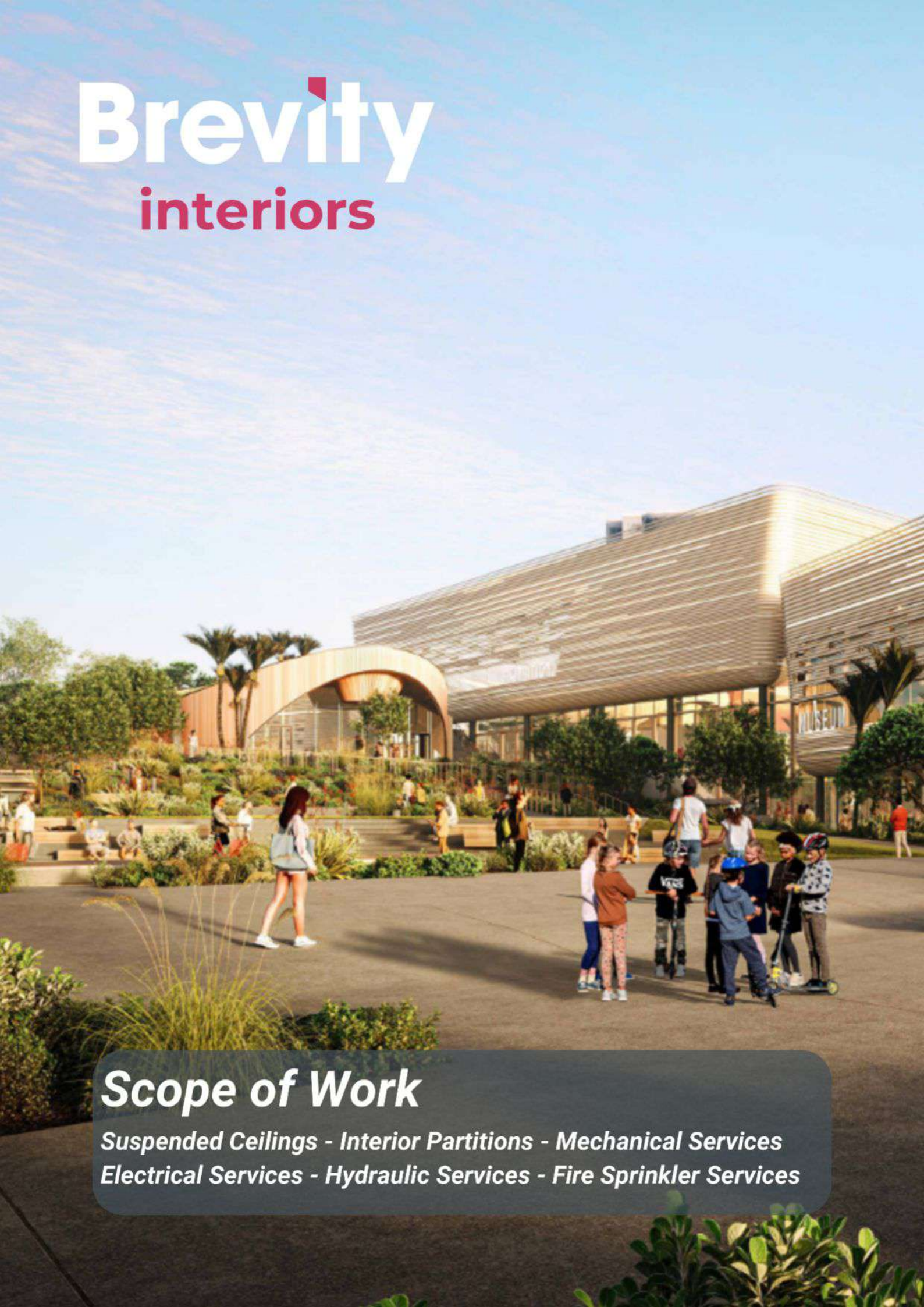

Scope of Work

Suspended Ceilings - Interior Partitions - Mechanical Services
Electrical Services - Hydraulic Services - Fire Sprinkler Services

CIVIC WHARE, EXHIBITION & MUSEUM

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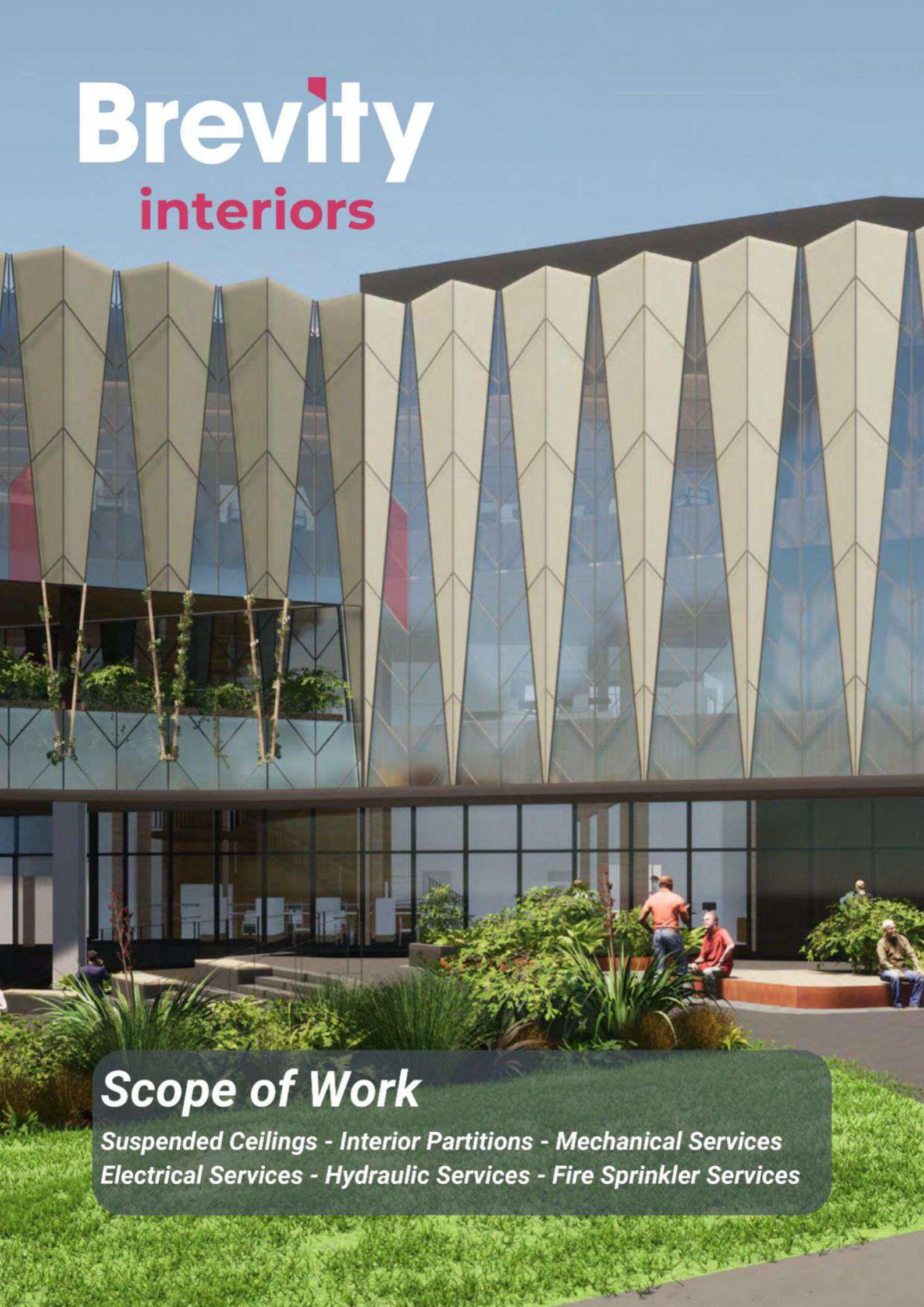

Scope of Work

Suspended Ceilings - Interior Partitions - Mechanical Services
Electrical Services - Hydraulic Services - Fire Sprinkler Services


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Scope of Work

Suspended Ceilings - Interior Partitions - Mechanical Services - Electrical Services - Hydraulic Services

WAIKATO REGIONAL THEATRE

Scope of Work

Suspended Ceilings - Interior Partitions - Mechanical Services
Electrical Services - Hydraulic Services - Fire Sprinkler Services


NORTHCOTE
COLLEGE

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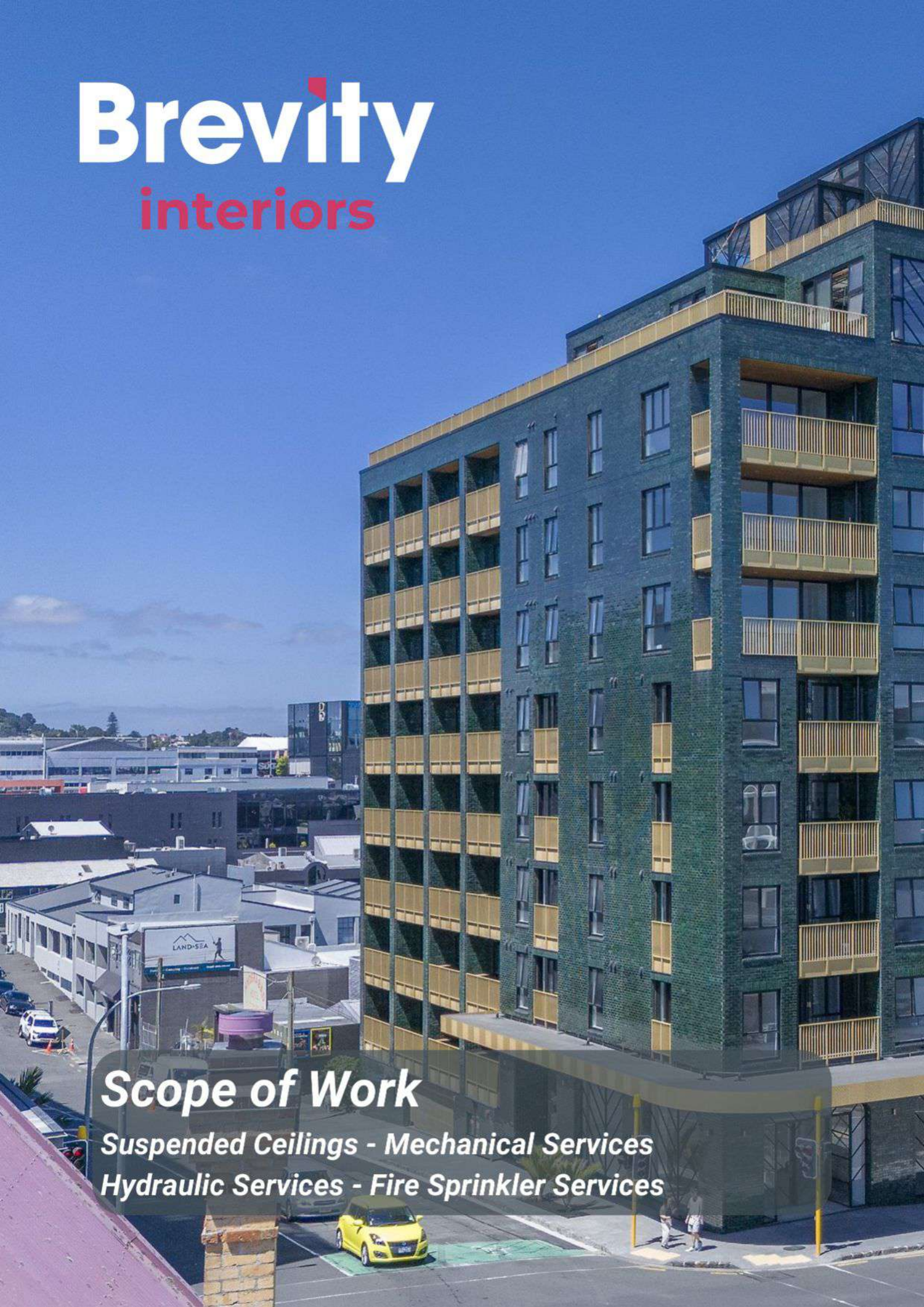

Scope of Work

Suspended Ceilings - Mechanical Services
Hydraulic Services - Fire Sprinkler Services


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Team Brevity are in Australia & New Zealand